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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 10/617,032 | 07/11/2003 | Kenichi Hiraoka | 239802US0CONT | 2705 |
| 22850 | 7590 | 04/07/2006 | EXAMINER | |
| OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314 | | | | KUHNS, SARAH LOUISE |
| ART UNIT | | PAPER NUMBER | | |
| 1761 | | | | DATE MAILED: 04/07/2006 |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | | |
|---|------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Response to Rule 312 Communication | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
| | 10/617,032 | HIRAOKA ET AL. | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | Sarah L. Kuhns | 1761 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

1. The amendment filed on 09 March 2006 under 37 CFR 1.312 has been considered, and has been:

- a) entered.
- b) entered as directed to matters of form not affecting the scope of the invention.
- c) disapproved because the amendment was filed after the payment of the issue fee.
Any amendment filed after the date the issue fee is paid must be accompanied by a petition under 37 CFR 1.313(c)(1) and the required fee to withdraw the application from issue.
- d) disapproved. See explanation below.
- e) entered in part. See explanation below.

The claims included with this amendment were an exact duplicate of those submitted with the 1.312 amendment on 2/7/06 and were already entered on 3/7/06. The IDS submitted was also a duplicate that was previously considered on 1/17/06. As such, no new documents, that had not been previously addressed, were included in this amendment.

MILTON I. CANO
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